



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 14, 2014

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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**House Bill 5504 – An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's
Recommendations Regarding Local Health Departments And Districts**

The Department of Public Health supports House Bill 5504 and would like to thank the committee for raising the Department's bill.

House Bill 5504 standardizes law concerning the employment of acting directors of health by aligning the requirements for municipal health departments and districts. If a vacancy exists for more than 90 days, the Commissioner can grant a waiver from the requirement that a full time municipal or district director of health be employed in order for the department or district to apply for per capita funds.

Currently local health departments and districts are able to carryover unexpended per capita funding from year to year. House Bill 5504 will eliminate the carryover authorization, and any unspent funds will revert to the General Fund. There will be a two year implementation period to allow health departments and districts adequate time to plan for and utilize funding to effectively provide necessary core public health services to their communities.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.